

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00195 191705Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /078 W
-----191734Z 099313 /54

P R 191621Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3844
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0195

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, GW, UR
SUBJECT: GDR REFUSES TO CONFIRM THAT VERORDNUNGSBLATT DISCONTINUED

REFS: A) USBERLIN 159, B) BONN 933, C) BONN 802

SUMMARY:
EAST BERLIN MAGISTRAT AND GDR POSTAL SERVICE
HAVE BOTH REFUSED, IN RESPONSE TO REPORTER'S QUESTIONS,
TO CONFIRM OR DENY THAT VERORDNUNGSBLATT PROCEDURE FOR
APPLYING GDR LAWS TO EAST BERLIN HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY
DISCONTINUED. WE TAKE THIS AS SIGN THAT GDR IS STILL
HESITANT ABOUT COMMITTING ITSELF IRREVOCABLY AND THAT FIRM
ALLIED ACTION MIGHT YET PRODUCE REAPPEARANCE OF THIS MAJOR
SYMBOL OF EAST BERLIN'S SPECIAL STATUS. END SUMMARY.

1. WEST GERMAN PRESS AGENCY DPA HAS REPORTED THAT PRESS
SPOKESMAN FOR EAST BERLIN CITY GOVERNMENT (MAGISTRAT)
CATEGORICALLY REFUSED JANUARY 18 TO SPEAK TO QUESTION OF
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WHETHER OR NOT NON--APPEARANCE OF VERORDNUNGSBLATT FUER
GROSS-BERLIN SINCE SEPTEMBER 1976 INDICATED A PERMANENT
CHANGE IN LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURS. PRESS SPOKESMAN SAID
HE HAD NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT MATTER. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER
QUESTION WHY THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION, PRESS
SPOKESMAN SAID " I AM ENDING THE CONVERSATION" AND HUNG
UP TELEPHONE." DPA REPORTER WAS TOLD BY GDR POSTAL SERVICE

SAME DAY THAT IT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE WHETHER VERORDNUNGSBLATT
HAD BEEN PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED.

2. COMMENT: FAILURE OF GDR TO CONFIRM STATEMENT IN
SEW-CONTROLLED WEST BERLIN PAPER DIE WAHRHEIT THAT
VERORDNUNGSBLATT HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED MAY BE SIGNIFICANT,
PARTICULARLY SINCE DIE WAHRHEIT HAD REFERRED TO " OFFICIAL
SOURCES" IN ITS REPORT. THIS REINFORCES OUR INITIAL
CONCLUSION (REF A) THAT GDR IS STILL WAITING TO SEE HOW
FIRM ALLIED REACTION IS BEFORE IT COMMITS ITSELF
IRREVOCABLY. WE WILL BE CONVEYING OUR THOUGHTS
ON MEASURES ALLIES MIGHT CONSIDER TAKING TO ENCOURAGE
RESUMPTION OF VERORDNUNGSBLATT AFTER WE HAVE
RECEIVED REPORT FROM BRITISH MISSION ON HOW AMBASSADOR
WRIGHT'S CONVERSATION ON THIS POINT WITH ABRASIMOV
WENT ON JANUARY 19.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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